

URBAN DISTRICT OF ROTHWELL

ANNUAL REPORT
1967

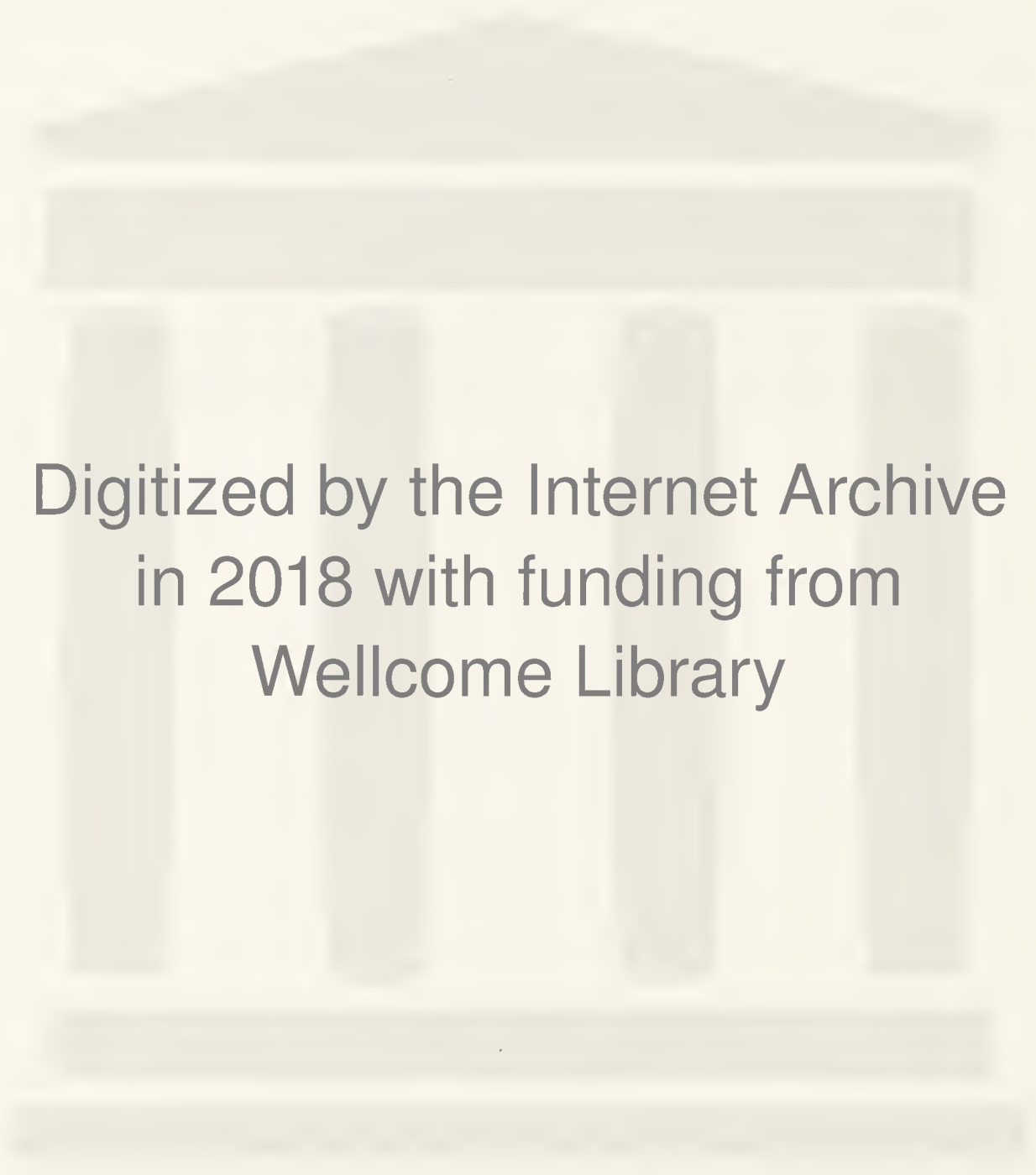
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1.	Dr. Didsbury	C.407
2.	Mr. Morley Perry	A.419
3.	<u>Mr. Perry</u>	A.405
		A.164

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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ROTHWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor A. Green

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor E. Hemingway

Public Health Committee:

Chairman: County Councillor A. Wright

Vice-Chairman: County Councillor Mrs. D. Hardwick

Councillor F. Ashton

Councillor J. Bolstridge

Councillor Mrs. De Carteret

Councillor C. Gosney

Councillor A. Green

Councillor Mrs. L. Haywood

Councillor Mrs. R. A. Moss

Councillor J. Senior

Medical Officer of Health:

W. Duncan Dolton

Chief Public Health Inspector:

G. F. Idle

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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1967

To the Chairman and Councillors,

The year under review was significant for two administrative changes within the Department, the retirement of Dr. Leslie Taylor and the amalgamation of Health Divisions 9 and 16 to form one new Division.

Dr. Taylor has been a Divisional Medical Officer since the National Health Service Act came into effect in 1948. He had been Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District of Rothwell for 6 years previous to this. Doubly qualified in both medicine and dentistry, Dr. Taylor was always good-humoured with both his staff and his patients. His clear mind allowed him to delegate responsibility effectively, his staff always knowing he would support them should the necessity arise. It is with pleasure that I record our debt to Dr. Taylor and express our wishes for many future happy years.

On the 1st June, by mutual agreement, the Rural Districts of Tadcaster and Wetherby and the Urban Districts of Garforth, Rothwell and Stanley were unified under the title of Health Division 9 for the purposes of the personal health services administered by the West Riding County Council.

The first few months after my appointment have been spent in getting to know the places, and the people with and for whom I shall be working. The Districts have been long and well served by their Public Health Inspectorates and it would be invidious for a newcomer even to comment on the sanitary arrangements of the areas. I have, therefore, restricted myself to a factual statement of the amenities. My colleague's Report—the Chief Public Health Inspector—deals very fully with his side of the work and will be found in Part II of this Report.

I have, however, made certain changes in Divisional administration, mainly in the fields of school health and the care of the deprived child. These are explained in the body of the Report.

While this is my second Annual Report, in my first I did not feel free to pay tribute to the work of the staff which took place before my appointment. It is, therefore, with added pleasure that I record my heartfelt thanks for the loyalty and enthusiasm of both my clerical and field staff. I thank too, the Health Committee for its interest and kindness to a new officer. It is encouraging to feel that we—Councillors, clerical staff, field workers and myself—are united in an earnest endeavour to bring the best possible health service to our clients.

W. Duncan Dolton,
Medical Officer of Health.

Autumn 1968.

TABLE 1
PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1967

	Garforth Urban District	Rothwell Urban District	Stanley Urban District	Tadcaster Rural District	Wetherby Rural District	Divisional Totals
Population (Mid-Year, 1967)	19,700	27,130	19,000	31,910	28,780	126,550
Live Births						
Total	518	440	399	599	441	2,397
Legitimate	497	423	384	566	420	2,290
Illegitimate	21 (4.1%)	17 (3.9%)	15 (3.8%)	33 (5.4%)	21 (4.8%)	107 (4.5%)
Stillbirths	11	6	4	3	4	28
Deaths of Infants						
Legitimate	9	9	5	5	7	35
Illegitimate	0	1	0	1	1	3
Under one week	5	2	2	4	6	19
Under four weeks	5	6	2	4	7	24
Under 1 year—total	9	10	5	6	8	38
Deaths (all causes)	165	386	187	321	264	1,323

CRUDE AND ADJUSTED RATES

Live Births	26.3	16.2	21.0	18.8	15.3	18.9
Live Births (Adjusted)	23.7	16.5	20.8	18.8	16.4	—
Illegitimate Births per 1,000 live births	40.5	38.6	37.6	55.1	47.4	44.7
Deaths (all causes)	8.0	14.2	9.8	10.1	9.2	10.5
Deaths (Adjusted)	12.0	11.1	11.3	11.7	11.5	—
Maternal Mortality	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stillbirths	20.8	13.5	9.9	5.0	9.0	11.5
Perinatal Mortality	30.2	17.9	14.9	11.6	22.5	19.4
Neo-Natal Mortality	9.7	13.6	5.0	6.7	15.9	10.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality (under 1 week)	9.7	4.6	5.0	6.7	13.6	8.0
Infant Mortality:						
All infants per 1,000 live births	17.4	22.7	12.5	10.0	18.1	15.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	18.1	21.3	13.0	9.0	16.7	10.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0.0	58.8	0.0	30.3	47.6	28.0
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.03	—	0.1
Tuberculosis, other	0.0	0.04	0.05	—	—	0.2
Tuberculosis, all forms	0.0	0.04	0.05	0.03	—	0.2
Cancer (all forms)	1.65	1.95	2.42	1.82	1.84	1.92
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	1.52	3.32	1.47	1.57	1.29	1.86
Heart and Circulatory Disease	3.35	4.94	3.57	4.17	3.37	3.94
Respiratory	0.91	1.84	1.00	1.25	0.90	1.21
Comparability Factors:						
Births	0.90	1.02	0.99	1.00	1.07	—
Deaths	1.43	0.78	1.15	1.16	1.25	—

All the maternal mortality, stillbirth and perinatal mortality rates are per 1,000 live and stillbirths.

DIVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS

The Birth Rate for the Division was 18·9 per 1,000 inhabitants, as compared with the National average of 17·2.

The Death Rates are very close to the National Rate of 11·2.

TABLE 2
RECORD OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS 1967

	Garforth U.D.			Rothwell U.D.			Stanley U.D.			Tadcaster R.D.			Wetherby R.D.		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Under															
1 year	4	5	9	5	5	10	3	2	5	5	3	8	5	1	6
1—5 yrs.	—	1	1	1	—	1	2	—	2	2	1	3	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	4	2	6	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1
15—25	—	1	1	4	—	4	—	1	1	3	1	4	1	—	1
25—35	1	1	2	4	—	4	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	3
35—45	1	1	2	5	3	8	2	2	4	8	5	13	7	2	9
45—55	11	7	18	16	9	25	10	8	18	17	5	22	8	13	21
55—65	9	14	23	32	25	57	19	21	40	30	21	51	42	17	59
65—75	24	30	54	49	41	90	20	20	40	36	26	62	37	35	72
75 & ov.	27	28	55	78	103	181	28	46	74	44	54	98	65	84	149
	77	88	165	198	188	386	86	101	187	147	117	264	168	153	321

Table 2 showing the age at death emphasises the quality of child care today. It is not until late middle age that the death rate becomes appreciable. The causes of death are shown in Table 3. It is rare today for people to die from an infectious disease; cancer and diseases of the heart and circulation accounting for the great majority of deaths. The earlier detection of their condition might have saved the ten women who died from cancer of the breast. It is rare that one has to record a death from cancer of the breast in a male. 26 persons —21 of them men—died of lung cancer, We do not know how many were smokers, but on statistical grounds they were forty times more likely to be smokers than non-smokers. Such is the effect of cigarette smoking on the human lung. There were 143 persons certified as dying from pneumonia or bronchitis. This was a reduction of 49 cases from the previous year.

TABLE 3

CAUSES OF DEATH 1967	Garforth U.D.		Rothwell U.D.		Stanley U.D.		Tadcaster R.D.		Wetherby R.D.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
8 Measles	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	1	4	1	3	4	1	1	6	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	1	9	1	5	—	10	4	11	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	—	4	—	5	1	4	—	6
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	—	2	—	6	—	3	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	9	16	14	9	14	15	18	17	8
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
16. Diabetes	—	1	—	3	—	—	2	3	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	23	37	53	8	20	25	25	19	18
18. Coronary disease, angina	22	12	45	26	28	17	52	40	45	25
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	2	4	1	2	—	3	—	2
20. Other heart disease	7	13	17	27	4	11	10	10	3	8
21. Other circulatory disease	5	4	7	6	4	1	6	12	7	7
23. Pneumonia	2	4	10	10	4	4	12	10	5	7
24. Bronchitis	7	3	21	7	5	3	14	2	9	4
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	—	1	1	1	2	—	2	1	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	1	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	3	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	8	15	14	4	3	6	3	11	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	1	2	4	2	5	1	2	2
34. All other accidents	—	2	4	5	1	4	4	3	3	5
35. Suicide	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	1	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES	77	88	198	188	86	101	168	153	147	117

It is sad to record that 8 people took their own lives during the year.

The high crude rate of 14.2 in Rothwell is due to the excess of elderly folk in the area. It should be borne in mind that St. George's Hospital, situated in Rothwell, is often the final home of many elderly folk, most of whom were previously resident outside the area. The adjusted rates are close to the National average.

TABLE 4

INFANT MORTALITY IN 1967

Deaths from stated causes under one year of age

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	13	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	13
Congenital Abnormalities—										
CNS	3	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	5
CVS	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3
Other	1	—	1	2	4	1	—	—	—	5
Infection—										
Respiratory Tract	2	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	—	6
Alimentary tract	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Other	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Haemorrhage	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Electrocution—Misadventure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

Table 4 shows the causes of death of the 38 children who died in the first year of life. Whilst the death due to electrocution and perhaps those due to infection might have been avoided, the majority of those due to prematurity and congenital abnormality were unavoidable with our present and indeed foreseeable medical skill. The overall infant mortality rate of 15.9 per 1,000 live births is better than the National figure of 18.3. Once again, however, I have to record rather higher rates for Rothwell and Wetherby, although these are still close to the National average.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Whilst there were few deaths from infectious diseases (see Table 3), the notifications presented the usual pattern (see Table 5). Measles remained the commonest notified disease. It is not unreasonable to hope that this disease will be eradicated within the next 10 years by mass immunisation. During the year under review measles vaccine was not yet available to the public. The localisation of whooping cough is interesting—101 cases being notified in Rothwell U.D.C. and only 18 in the adjacent district of Garforth. It should be no source of pride that some districts had no case of bacillary dysentery. It is a sad commentary on our personal hygiene to record cases in all but one district. This infection is due to the ingestion of bacteria from human faeces. While this may be carried by a fly or other insect, much more commonly it is conveyed by unwashed human hands.

TABLE 5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1967

	Disease	Total all ages 1965	Total all ages 1966	Total all ages 1967	Under One year	1—4 years	5—14 years	15—45 years	46—64 years	Over 65 years	Age unknown	Cases admitted to hospital
ROTHWELL U.D.	Scarlet Fever	42	63	54	—	20	32	1	—	—	1	—
	Pneumonia	13	7	19	1	2	1	3	6	5	1	—
	Erysipelas	7	7	4	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
	Whooping Cough	12	17	101	5	46	46	4	—	—	—	1
	Measles	291	210	202	9	101	77	14	1	—	—	—
	Sonne Dysentery	22	12	9	1	2	3	2	1	—	—	—
	Food Poisoning	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
GARFORTH U.D.	Scarlet Fever	7	33	32	1	13	18	—	—	—	—	—
	Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Erysipelas	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Whooping Cough	4	6	18	—	9	9	—	—	—	—	—
	Measles	91	158	102	7	48	46	1	—	—	—	—
	Sonne Dysentery	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	Food Poisoning	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
STANLEY U.D.	Scarlet Fever	19	15	13	—	4	8	—	—	—	1	—
	Pneumonia	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Erysipelas	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
	Whooping Cough	—	2	24	—	12	12	—	—	—	—	—
	Measles	190	91	114	—	60	52	2	—	—	—	—
TADCASTER R.D.	Scarlet Fever	62	40	27	—	8	15	4	—	—	—	—
	Pneumonia	5	9	9	—	2	5	—	1	1	22	—
	Acute Anterior Encephalitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	Erysipelas	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Whooping Cough	4	19	51	4	31	15	1	—	—	—	—
	Sonne Dysentery	5	36	4	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
	Measles	303	200	447	6	225	211	5	—	—	—	—
WETHERBY R.D.	Scarlet Fever	6	29	17	—	6	11	—	—	—	—	—
	Pneumonia	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	12	—
	Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Erysipelas	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	Whooping Cough	1	5	22	1	9	12	—	—	—	—	—
	Sonne Dysentery	8	16	9	—	5	1	3	—	—	—	—
	Measles	227	196	420	8	237	171	4	—	—	—	—

As will be seen from Table 7, there were 19 new cases of pulmonary and 4 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year, compared with 17 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary in 1966. The number of cases on the Registers at the end of the year was:

TABLE 6

District	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Garforth U.D.	19	16	1	4
Rothwell U.D.	53	25	12	2
Stanley U.D.	7	11	2	1
Tadcaster R.D.	32	18	4	5
Wetherby R.D.	12	15	5	4
Total	123	85	24	16

TABLE 7

TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1967

AGE	Garforth U.D.		Rothwell U.D.		Stanley U.D.		Tadcaster R.D.		Wetherby R.D.	
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
15—19 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
20—24 yrs.	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 yrs.	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
35—44 yrs.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
45—54 yrs.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
55—64 yrs.	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Totals	4	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	3	3

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Care of Mothers and Babies—In my last report I drew attention to the relatively low number of hospital confinements in the Division.

TABLE 8

District	Domiciliary Deliveries		Hospital Deliveries		Percentage of Domiciliary Deliveries	
	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967
Rothwell Urban District	182	155	288	278	38.7	35.8
Garforth Urban District	202	203	299	315	40.3	39.2
Stanley Urban District	194	199	184	197	50.1	51.2
Tadcaster Rural District	208	170	385	431	35.0	39.4
Wetherby Rural District	110	96	314	343	26.0	28.0
	896	823	1470	1564	38.02	38.70

Table 8 allows of a comparison for this and the previous year. It is regrettable that the figures do not show an improvement. It is a tribute to the quality of the care of the domiciliary midwives that the perinatal and infant mortality rates are what they are. It is imperative not that all cases should be delivered in hospital, but that cases at "high risk" should be confined within easy reach of expert care. It is understandable that mothers of large families should wish to be confined at home, but it is not always easy to persuade these "high risk" mothers of the need for extra care, despite the obvious tragedy of such a family being left motherless.

The responsibility for the care of the baby becomes that of the Health Visitor on the eleventh day. During the year Health Visitors visited 10,722 children under the age of 5. They also visited expectant mothers and the aged and gave Health Education as appropriate to all sections of the community.

During the year arrangements were made for Case Conferences to be called as and when required by field workers concerned about children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes. It was hoped that these would prove more effective than the Co-ordinating Committee which has met in the past once or twice a year. A Case Conference discusses one, or at the most two cases, with which every member present is concerned. The purpose of the Case Conference is to define one officer as being in charge of the case and to come to some common decision on a course of action. Experience has proved the innovation to be worth while.

Care of the Pre-School Child—During the year there has been a remarkable increase in public interest in playgroups. Health Visitors have advised where necessary. There were 4 registered child minders in the Division as a whole.

Care of the School Child—Of the 5,034 pupils receiving full medical examinations, in only one was the physical condition considered unsatisfactory by the school doctor. An increasing burden falls upon the school nurses who undertook 55,658 examinations, an increase of 15,175 from the previous year. It is regrettable that 404 pupils were found to be infested. Defects of vision were found in 1,118 children, of whom 576 had spectacles prescribed. While the hearing of 1,178 children was tested in 1966, 2,453 were tested during the year under review. 37 of these were referred for further special tests. There were 36 children (including 26 at Bridge House School for the Deaf) known to be in school with hearing aids.

The Child Guidance Clinics continued to be of great service. 146 children with emotional problems being seen.

At the beginning of the academic year in September 1967, routine school medical examinations were finally abandoned. All children receive a pre-school medical examination and are only seen thereafter by a School Medical Officer if enquiry discloses a need. It is pleasant to record that teachers have been unanimous in expressing their pleasure in the new arrangements.

Care of the Mentally Subnormal and Mentally Ill—Two Senior Mental Welfare Officers and four Mental Welfare Officers work within the Division.

The Training Centre at Rothwell has 72 places for subnormal children and adults and has been full to capacity throughout the year. There is a waiting list for the small "Special Care" Unit. It is regretted that the parents of children with severe mental handicap under the age of five have, at the moment, little prospect of relief from their troubles by admission of the child to Training Centre.

There is a further Training Centre scheduled for building at Wetherby in the early 1970's, this will materially improve the situation.

Mental Welfare Officers co-operate with Hospitals, Consultant Psychiatrists and the Family Doctors in the care of the mentally ill.

Care of the Aged—The **home help** and **home nurse** spend the greater proportion of their time in caring for the aged. Of the 62,300 visits paid by home nurses, 39,377 were paid to the aged. 386 home helps worked for a total of 214,261 hours. Other services to the aged were chiropody and pads for the incontinent. Both services are widely used and much appreciated.

PREVENTION OF DISEASE

Health Education—Increasingly the prevention of disease will be in the hands of the individual. It is hoped that as the public realise the dangers of over-eating, lack of exercise, smoking and promiscuity—to name but a few recognised hazards—the incidence of disease will drop. Unfortunately, such an expectation is unrealistic and we have yet to find means of motivating people to live healthily. Perhaps more can be done by influencing our legislators—those who make the decisions as to whether to add fluoride to the drinking water, to ban cigarette advertising or to proceed with smoke control.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

TABLE 9

Primary Immunisation Course	Children born in Year—				Pre-1964	Total
	1967	1966	1965	1964		
Poliomyelitis	671	1059	156	51	322	2259
Diphtheria	746	971	90	24	161	1992
Pertussis	743	965	89	20	36	1853
Tetanus	745	971	90	25	389	2220

TABLE 10

Re-inforcing Doses	Children born in Year—				Pre-1964	Total
	1967	1966	1965	1964		
Poliomyelitis	—	222	382	64	2457	3152
Diphtheria	—	334	499	85	2662	3580
Pertussis	—	313	451	62	342	1168
Tetanus	—	334	502	92	2576	3504

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

TABLE 11

Age at date of Vaccination	Number of Persons Vaccinated (or Re-Vaccinated) during year	
	Number Vaccinated	Number Re-Vaccinated
0—3 months	15	—
3—6 months	17	—
6—9 months	23	—
9—12 months	33	—
1 year	1408	6
2—4 years	443	1
5—14 years	89	36
Totals	2028	43

B.C.G. Vaccination—883 schoolchildren were vaccinated. Vaccination is also given to children, irrespective of age, who are contacts of known cases of Tuberculosis and 58 children were vaccinated during the year.

Immunisation—Tables 9, 10 and 11 show the number of children immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis. By these simple routine measures, which we tend to take for granted, many lives are saved.

Early detection of disease—During recent years, tests have been discovered for the detection of certain abnormalities before the patient is aware of being ill. Health Visitors screen every child in the first few weeks of life for a metabolic disorder known as phenylketonuria. Indeed the whole Infant Welfare Service is designed to detect as soon as possible any abnormal development in the young.

Cervical Cytology has been much publicised to detect early cancer of the womb. Mass Chest X-Ray continues to be of service in the detection of unsuspected tuberculosis.

At the end of the year under review plans were being made for an Old Age Pensioners Clinic at Swillington. A report on its findings will be given in 1968.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 1967/68

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA 1967

Infectious Disease Prevention

Inspections	5
Disinfections	0

Milk and Dairies

Inspection of Dairies	0
(under the jurisdiction of W.R.C.C.)	

Food and Drugs Inspection

Meat Inspection	14
Food Inspection	55
Water Sampling	0

Housing

Houses inspected and recorded	874
General Surveys	1,614
Public Health Act Inspections	1,123
Re-visits	263

Offensive Trades

Inspection of Fat Refining Premises	2
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Sanitary Matters

Inspections for Verminous Premises	11
Inspections for Rat Infestations	977
Inspection of Drainage complaints and repair	224
Clean Air Act	1,380
Inspection re refuse removal and disposal	408
Factories and Workshops	8
Tents, Vans and Sheds	61
Number of Statutory Notices	
(Housing and Public Health Acts)	24
Number of Nuisances abated on serving	
Statutory Notices (Public Health Acts)	51

*New Drainage now inspected by Building Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

and

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

for the year

1967

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council

This should have been Mr. T. Wilson's Thirty-Sixth Annual Report on the Health and Cleansing Department but owing to his sudden death in October I have to record facts and figures relating to the year previous to my appointment.

HOUSING

In general the trend of improvement of housing continues, particularly with the final assault on the "back-to-backs" and I can do no better than show the result by reproducing the Housing Statistics Report:—

No. of Dwelling Houses in District 9,547

No. of Houses included in above:

(a) Back to Back, 158.

(b) Single back, Not known.

Slum Clearance

Estimated number of unfit houses at 31.12.67 in respect of which no representation has yet been made: 19 back to backs plus approx 20 = 39.

Details of future slum clearance programme. This has been virtually completed—only very small groups or individual houses will be dealt with.

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses elsewhere

No. of houses included in Representations made during the year:

(a) In Clearance areas 175

(b) Individual Unfit 3

Houses demolished during year

In or adjoining Clearance Areas:

Unfit for human habitation 22

Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas:

As a result of formal or informal procedure under
Section 16 or 17(1) Housing Act, 1957 11

Number of persons displaced during year

From houses to be demolished in or adjoining clearance areas 142½

From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas 8

Number of families displaced during year

From houses to be demolished in or adjoining clearance areas	62
From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas	4

Unfit houses made fit

After informal action by local authority	35
After formal notice under Section 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	15

Houses in which defects were remedied (Other than unfit houses made fit)

After formal notice under Public Health Acts	9
No. of families rehoused during the year into	
Council owned dwellings:	
(a) Clearance areas, etc.	63
(b) Overcrowding	18

New dwellings

No. of new dwellings completed during the year:	
By the Local Authority	67
By Private Enterprise	127

Grants for conversion or improvement of housing accommodation

	Formal applications received	Applications approved during the year	No. of dwellings completed during year
Conversions	Nil	Nil	Nil
Improvements	132	130	80

This Authority encourage house owners to improve their houses by grant and in addition to the "Standard" grants have from its inauguration approved Discretionary Grants of which this year the majority of the 80 completed are in this category.

CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN AIR ZONES

During the year a further 2 Smoke Control Areas were submitted, being No. 11 (Robin Hood) and No. 12 (South Ward) which covered 1,696 acres and totalled 737 premises.

The No. 11 (Robin Hood) Area was confirmed by the Ministry during the year covering 878 acres and totalling 353 premises. The operative date is the 1st September, 1968.

The No. 10 (Royds Lane) Area became operative from the 1st February, 1967 and was an undeveloped area of 12 acres with a proposed development by a Private builder of 104 premises.

The total number of Smoke Control Areas now in operation is 10 covering 1,708 acres and totalling 3,830 premises.

On the industrial side an examination of all plans submitted takes place with discussions if necessary to provide the most efficient type of plant and fuel.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

During the year 6 accidents were reported, but all were of a very minor character, which after investigation required no further action.

The following tables are extracts from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Labour:—

Premises Registered during the year	Total at year end	Registered Premises receiving general inspection
2	74	56

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The second convenience-cum-bus shelter is now built and in operation at Methley and like the one at Oulton, is fitted with hand washing machines. These facilities consist of foot-operated hot water supply and hot-air driers with plunger type soap dispensers.

During the year under review we have had to deal with the usual type of vandalism at our conveniences, but however many enquiries are made “no-one ever sees anyone doing this damage”.

PUBLIC MORTUARY

The mortuary situated in the yard behind the Civic Buildings serves the whole of the district and continues to give an efficient service, due in no small measure to our part-time attendant, Mr. G. Harrison.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

During the year 977 inspections were made, relating to the investigation and treatment where necessary, of all complaints. 258 premises were treated for rats and 75 for mice.

NUISANCES

We still receive the odd complaint of the fouling of footpaths by dogs and I am pleased to say the method we now use of stencilling notices on to lamp posts has been highly successful and the method we shall continue to use in the future.

Persistent complaints from two persons alleging nuisance from a works continued throughout the year and any reasonable modifications and alterations suggested were immediately put in hand at the works. Officials of this authority and another Government department involved were satisfied that the “best practical means” were applied in the operation of this process.

HEALTH PROPAGANDA AND INSTRUCTION

We still accept and continue training in the fundamentals of our work, Pupil Health Visitors from the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Leeds University. One day is allowed per student per course but we do our best during that day to show them some of the aspects of our work which will be useful to them in their professional life later.

Advertising boards are fixed in every part of the area and we receive from all departments of the Council, notices of “this and that” which are posted on all boards simultaneously and when they are not so used the boards are covered with Health Propaganda posters.

INCIDENTAL ACTIVITIES

The Scrap Metal Dealers' Act requiring the registration of people dealing in scrap metals is still administered by this Department as also is the requirement of the West Riding County Council which requires an applicant to produce a certificate from us stating that his premises are registered for the sale of Game, before a licence is issued.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The average collection of refuse still falls well below the standard minimum of a seven day cycle, and with the approval of the Council a pilot scheme of plastic liners to place inside the existing dustbins was put in hand. Each householder was circulated giving details of what we intended to do and asking them for their co-operation. I am happy to say we received this co-operation fully, with the exception of the odd one or two (on any new scheme one always seems to get the "odd one out"). The team were given a supply of bags, leaving a fresh one after lifting the used one out, which he carried to and deposited in the vehicle. The result of this was that it was not necessary to bring the dustbin to the vehicle and return it after emptying, thereby evolving a more hygienic and efficient method.

Preliminary results indicated that both time, cycles of emptying and labour could be reduced and it is hoped to report next year how this has been maintained by the inauguration and expansion of this system.

Further proposed streamlining of the service was the approval and placing of an order for two further 50 cu. yd. dustless loading, self packing machines, which cuts the four or five journeys per day to the tip, with the smaller vehicles, to two. Delivery of these two machines will be in the next report year.

SEWERS AND DRAINS

We still perform the useful but unusual function of unstopping drains and sewers at the cost of the rates and the 546 stopped drains which were cleansed does not in fact vary very much.

The relaying of the sewers affected by mining subsidence in Main Street, Church Lane and part of Savile Road, Methley, has been completed, although subsidence continued to affect the main drainage system in other parts of Methley, where the gradients have been altered by the lowering of the ground.

Temporary measures are being taken as appropriate in these areas to deal with the drainage difficulties as they arise, until more permanent works can be carried out as soon as no further subsidence is assured.

FOOD AND DRUGS

As was forecast in last year's report, the remaining slaughterhouse discontinued slaughtering during the year, the butcher arranged to purchase meat "off the hook" which from his point of view is the more economical way.

The amount of food condemned as the result of inspection at shops etc., is:

Home killed	10 lbs.
Various tinned foods	2661 lbs.
Frozen Foods	133 lbs.

FOOD HAWKERS

Under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951 there are 39 vehicles registered of which 25 are Food Hawkers and 14 Ice Cream Vendors. These are inspected from time to time under the Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicle Regulations 1966, and all offences were dealt with informally.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the water used in this area is controlled by Leeds Corporation who have their own inspection and sampling departments, and when the odd complaint is received we pass same on to them for their attention.

STATISTICAL RECORD

Appended is the usual report of visits and inspections carried out under the various statutes and regulations, also under their several headings, defects repaired or renewed in properties, by the service of informal or formal notices.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Clean Air Act	1,380
Demolition of Houses and Buildings	189
Factories and Workshops	8
Food Examination	69
Food Premises	53
Hairdressers and Barbers	3
Housing Acts	874
Housing Acts (Re-inspections)	740
Offensive Trades	2
Petroleum Storage	128
Plant Maintenance	260
Prevention of Damage by Pests	977
Public Cleansing Services	408
Public Conveniences	361
Public Health Acts	1,123
Public Health Acts (Re-inspections)	263
Sewers and Drains	224
Shops Act	1
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Caravans	61
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	93
Noise Abatement	14
Miscellaneous	238
	<hr/>
	7,469

Summary of Works Carried Out:

Ceilings repaired or replastered	3
Walls repaired or replastered	8
Windows repaired or renewed	23
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	5
Floors repaired or renewed	4
Doors repaired or renewed	5
Sinks renewed	2
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	4
Stairs repaired or renewed	1
Roofs repaired	22
Chimney stacks repaired or renewed	13
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	23
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	15
Walls repaired or repointed	17

STAFF

It was a tragic loss both to the Council and the profession that Mr. T. Wilson died suddenly on the night of the 24th October, 1967 and, in addition to losing a colleague, I also lost a close and personal friend with whom I had been associated for thirty years. Tom was a man who gladly and willingly gave his help and advice to anyone who needed it and from whatever walk of life they came and his passing from our midst will be greatly felt.

To the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk to the Council, Mr. Hall and the other members of the Health Department Staff, I am deeply appreciative of their help and advice when I needed it most, and to all the senior officers of the Council and indeed to all the members of the Council whose help and co-operation subscribe to the more efficient running of the Department, I tender my sincere thanks.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

G. IDLE,

Public Health Inspector.

T P

*Thornton and Pearson (Printers) Ltd.
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Bradford 8*